

## System and Method for Managing File System Extended Attributes

### ABSTRACT

An extended attribute data page includes extended  
5 attribute information about a number of files. The page is  
divided into areas, each area corresponding to a different  
file. A given area is further divided into a number of  
lines containing information about the extended attribute  
data. Areas include bitmaps indicating available space in  
10 the data space and address information for addressing off-  
page data areas. A directory is included of data types  
stored in the data area, and additional lines store  
extended attribute data. The extended attribute directory  
maintains a list of data types currently stored and related  
15 information. Including availability information about each  
line along with addresses to areas storing extended  
attribute data enables the extended attribute manager to  
efficiently determine where to place extended attribute  
data, mark deleted lines as being available, retrieve data  
20 being requested by a process, and modify the contents of a  
given extended attribute data type.